WE CLAIM:

1. A composition in the form of an anhydrous emulsion having as a dispersed phase ascorbic acid dissolved by means of energy input, in a nonaqueous polar organic solvent, and as the continuous phase a nonaqueous nonpolar organic solvent.

2. The composition of claim 1 which is a cosmetic composition.

3. The composition of claim 1 comprising, by weight of the total composition:

0.1-50% ascorbic acid.

5-98% of a nonaqueous polar organic solvent, and

5-98% of a nonaqueous nonpolar organic solvent.

4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the ascorbic acid is completely dissolved in the nonaqueous polar organic solvent.

5. The composition of claim 1 comprising 5-35% by weight of ascorbic acid.

6. The composition of claim 5 comprising 8-15% by weight of ascorbic acid.

7. The composition of claim 1 comprising 1-35% ascorbic acid, 20-80% of a nonaqueous polar organic solvent, and 20-80% of a nonaqueous nonpolar organic solvent.

8. The composition of claim 1 wherein the nonaqueous polar organic solvent has an octanol/water partition coefficient of less than or equal to -0.2 at 25° C.

9. The composition of claim 8 wherein the nonaqueous polar solvent is selected from the group consisting of:

a) polyols having three or more hydroxyl groups per molecule,

b) monomeric or polymeric ethers,

c) alcohols of the formula $R(OH)_n$

d) diols

e) sorbitan derivatives,

f) and mixtures thereof.

10. The composition of claim 1 wherein the nonaqueous nonpolar organic solvent has an octanol/water partition coefficient of greater than -0.2 at 25° C.

11. The composition of claim 10 wherein the nonaqueous nonpolar organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of:

a) silicones,

b) fatty esters,

c) glyceryl esters of fatty acids,

d) fatty acids,

e) fatty alcohols,

f) hydrocarbons,

g) lanolin and dervatives thereof,

h) sterols, and

i) mixtures thereof.

12. The composition of claim 9 wherein the nonaqueous polar solvent is selected from the group consisting of polyols having three or more carbon atoms, monomeric or polymeric ethers, and mixtures thereof.

13. The composition of claim 11 wherein the nonaqueous nonpolar solvent is selected from the group consisting of silicones, fatty esters, hydrocarbons, and mixtures thereof.

14. A method for dissolving ascorbic acid in a nonaqueous polar organic solvent, comprising the steps of:

a) heating the nonaqueous polar organic solvent to a temperature sufficient to dissolve ascorbic acid in the nonaqueous polar organic solvent.

b) dissolving particulate ascorbic acid in the heated carrier composition, and

c) cooling the mixture.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the nonaqueous polar organic solvent is heated to a temperature of 70 to 170° C.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the temperature of the mixture is cooled by reducing the temperature by 10 to 145° C.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein the mixture is cooled to room temperature.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein after cooling the mixture, it is reheated to a temperature of 70 to 170° C. and a second nonaqueous polar organic solvent is added.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein after the addition of the second nonaqueous polar organic solvent, the mixture is cooled.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the mixture is cooled to room temperature.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the mixture is cooled to room temperature by immersing in an ice water bath.

22. A method for dissolving ascorbic acid in nonaqueous polar organic solvent comprising the steps of:

a) heating a first nonaqueous polar organic solvent to a temperature of 70 to 170° C.,

b) dissolving ascorbic acid in the first solvent,

c) cooling the mixture,

d) reheating the mixture to a temperature of 70 to 170° C.

e) adding a second nonaqueous polar organic solvent,

f) cooling the mixture.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the composition is cooled to room temperature.

23. The method of claim 21 wherein the first nonaqueous polar organic solvent is a polyol having three or more carbon atoms.

24. The method of claim 21 wherein the second nonaqueous polar organic solvent is a polymeric ether.

25. A cosmetic composition in the form of an anhydrous emulsion having as the dispersed phase a nonaqueous nonpolar organic solvent, and as the continuous phase ascorbic acid dissolved in a nonaqueous polar organic solvent, said composition comprising, by weight of the total composition:

0.1-50% ascorbic acid,

5-98% of a nonaqueous polar organic solvent, and

5-98% of a nonaqueous nonpolar organic solvent.

26. A method for making an anhydrous emulsion having as a dispersed phase ascorbic acid dissolved in a nonaqueous polar organic solvent, and as the continuous phase a nonaqueous nonpolar organic solvent, said composition comprising, by weight of the total composition:

0.1-40% ascorbic acid,

5-98% of a nonaqueous polar organic solvent,

5-98% of a nonaqueous nonpolar organic solvent,

comprising the steps of:

a) heating the nonaqueous polar organic solvent to a temperature of about 80 to 120° C.,

b) dissolving particulate ascorbic acid in the heated carrier composition,

c) cooling the mixture.

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~~27~~. The method of claim 26 wherein the mixture is then emulsified into the nonaqueous nonpolar organic solvent.

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~~28~~. A method for making an anhydrous emulsion having as the dispersed phase a nonaqueous nonpolar organic solvent, and as the continuous phase ascorbic acid dissolved in a nonaqueous polar organic solvent, said composition comprising, by weight of the total composition:

0.1-40% ascorbic acid,

5-98% of a nonaqueous polar organic solvent, and

5-98% of a nonaqueous nonpolar organic solvent,

comprising the steps of:

a) heating the nonaqueous nonpolar organic solvent to a temperature of 80 to 120° C.

b) dissolving particulate ascorbic acid in the heated composition of (a),

c) cooling the mixture.

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~~29~~. The method of claim 28 wherein the nonaqueous nonpolar organic solvent is emulsified into the mixture nonaqueous polar organic solvent containing dissolved ascorbic acid.